

Remarks:**Drawings**

Further to the teleconference with the Examiner on May 3, 2004, Applicant has deleted Figures 1 and 2 from originally filed drawing sheet 2. Approval of the drawings is respectfully requested.

§112 Rejections

Claim 4 is rejected as indefinite. Applicant has amended claim 4 by deleting the term “arcuate.” The claim as amended recites “said substantially U-shaped portion,” antecedent basis for the term is found in claim 1.

§102 Rejections

Claims 1, 5-9, 11 and 16-18 are rejected as anticipated by Helm, Sr.

The rejection of claims 1, 5-9 and 11 is respectfully traversed. The Helm “375 patent does not show or suggest a guide channel. Rather, elements 16 and 18 of Helm form an “L” bracket and do not define a channel as recited in independent claims 1 (from which claims 5, 6, 16 and 17 depend), independent claim 7 (from which claim 8 depends), independent claim 9 (From which claim 11 depends). Wherefore, the allowance of claims 1, 5-9, 11 and 16-17 is respectfully requested.

Claim 18 has been amended to require: “said guide member comprising opposite wall portions adapted to maintain a workpiece between the same.” Helm, Sr. does not teach a guide member having opposite wall portions, as required by claim 18. In contrast, Helm, Sr. teaches a “guide” having only perpendicular wall portions, which cannot alone maintain a workpiece in the guide. Claim 18 has further been amended to require a “single support arm,” and that the body piece is solely supported by the support arm. Helm, Sr. teaches multiple support rails for the cutter.

§103 Rejections

Claims 2-4 and 10 are rejected as unpatentable over Helm, Sr. in view of Dunn. In light of the amendments and arguments above with regard to claims 1 and 9, from which claims 2-4 and 10 depend, respectively, the rejections are overcome.

Claims 12-15 stand rejected as unpatentable over Helm in view of Dunn. Claim 12 has been amended to recite the sides of the guide member are generally opposite, which is not shown or suggested by Helm. Wherefore, claims 12 and claims 13-15 depending therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance, which is respectfully solicited.

WHEREFORE, all the submitted claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, which is respectfully solicited. If the Applicant may be of further assistance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at (248) 364-2100.

Dated: August 5, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Dunn", written over a horizontal line.

Robert A. Dunn (Reg. No. 30,556)
Dinnin & Dunn, P.C.
2701 Cambridge Ct.
Suite 500
Auburn Hills, MI 48326